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CURRICULUM IN AEROSPACE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN
COOPERATION WITH NASA LANGLEY RESEARCH CENTER

by

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In 1958, Congress established a Federal agency to plan, coordinate, conduct and implement aerospace research and activities. Since that time, the National Aeronautical Space Administration has planned, directed, conducted and implemented numerous research projects and activities. Because of the vast amount of research that has been conducted at NASA, and its concern for the future of this country and its young people, NASA wanted to disseminate some of its research to the general public and to public school systems.

NASA established the Teacher Resource Center in 1983 to help disseminate information to the general public and to public school systems about its research. There are many resources available for teachers to use to help students understand the research that is being conducted at NASA.

Curriculum was written to show teachers how to best use the many resources that are available at the Teacher Resource Center. This curriculum packet was written using teaching units that teachers in both the elementary and middle schools can use to help students better understand some of the research that has been conducted at NASA and will be conducted in the future.

The units are written with certain standards. Each unit contains: (1) specific objectives, using the Virginia standards of learning, (2) the materials that are available from the TRC, (3) many activities that teachers can use in a variety of ways, and (4) specific strategies for measuring the objectives to determine if the students mastered the knowledge, concepts or skills that were taught.

The curriculum units can be used in a variety of ways. Teachers may assign specific activities to students individually, in small groups and in teams.

They may also direct large or small group activities or allow students to direct their own activities.

There is no time limit on the different units. Teachers may decide how long to remain on any particular unit. The length of time and depth of involvement will depend upon the needs, interests and abilities of the students.

The curriculum packet contains specific units on several topics. They are:

1. Careers in Aerospace Science and Technology
2. The History of Flight
3. The History of Satellites
4. The History of the Manned Space Projects and the Future of the Future of the Space Program
5. The Solar System
6. The History of Rockets

Teachers who are interested in obtaining a copy to the curriculum should contact the Teacher Resource Center at NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.